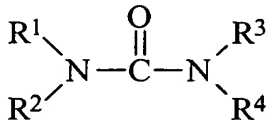
IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a polyisocyanate which contains one or more biuret groups by reacting

a) an aliphatic or cycloaliphatic isocyanate containing two or more isocyanate groups (isocyanate (a)) with

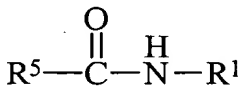
b) 0.5 to 20 mol% based on the isocyanate groups in (a) of a tertiary alcohol or a mixture of water and a tertiary alcohol (biuretizing agent (b)) at from 100 to 250°C, which comprises carrying out the reaction in the presence

c) from 0.01 to 2.0 mol% based on the isocyanate groups in (a) of a stabilizer (c) ~~consisting essentially of a catalytic amount of~~ selected from the group consisting of urea, ammonia, biuret, ethylene urea, a urea derivative of the formula I



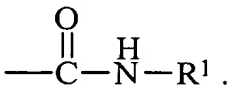
(I)

in which R^1, R^2, R^3 and R^4 are hydrogen, C_1 to C_{10} alkyl or C_6 to C_{10} aryl, or a carboxamide of the formula II



(II)

in which R^5 is C_1 to C_{12} alkyl which is unsubstituted or in which 1, 2 or 3 hydrogen atoms are replaced by a radical



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2. (Previously amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the isocyanate (a) is a C_4 to C_{30} diisocyanate or triisocyanate.

3. (Previously amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the isocyanate (a) is hexamethylene-1,6-diisocyanate.

4. (Previously amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the biuretizing agent (b) is a tertiary alcohol or a mixture of a tertiary alcohol and up to 80 mol% of water based on the sum of the components of the mixture.

5. (Previously amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the tertiary alcohol is tert-butanol.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reaction is carried out at from 140 to 220°C.

9. (Previously amended) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the polyisocyanate containing biuret groups is prepared and then unreacted isocyanate (a) is removed from it down to a content of less than 0.5% by weight, based on the polyisocyanate which contains biuret groups.

10. (New) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stabilizer (c) is urea.

11. (New) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stabilizer (c) is ammonia.

12. (New) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stabilizer (c) is biuret.

13. (New) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stabilizer (c) is ethyleneurea.

14. (New) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stabilizer (c) is a urea derivative of the formula I.

15. (New) A process as claimed in claim 14, wherein the stabilizer (c) is N,N'-

dimethylurea.

16. (New) A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the stabilizer (c) is a carboxamide of the formula II.

17. (New) A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the stabilizer (c) is acetamide.

18. (New) A process as claimed in claim 16, wherein the stabilizer (c) is succinamide.